



FOCUS

Ashland Independent Schools




Superintendent's Letter

We are in that special, magical time of the year when we are excited and joyful in making others happy while we make extra efforts to reflect our care and concern for family and friends. Maybe a practice that should spread throughout the entire year! It is a time of Thanks and Thoughtfulness.....really a time to reflect and consider what is truly important in our lives.



I want each of you to know and appreciate the significant role that we fulfill in the lives of our students, their families, and all our co-workers throughout the year. We have such a "sacred trust" to care, nurture and yes, to teach those in our charge to become the very best they can be, now and into the future. It truly is a vocation like no other with a responsibility like no other. I am so proud of you and the wonderful works that you are providing.



Learning is also for us.....you never stop. I have learned that, no matter what happens, how difficult it may seem today, that life will go on and it will be better tomorrow. I have learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle rainy days, the elderly, those less fortunate, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas lights. I've learned that 'making' a living is not the same thing as making a 'life'. I've learned that sometimes life gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands.....you need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you, but if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your position in life, and always striving to do the right thing, to do your best, and to treat others as you want to be treated, happiness will find you. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love the human touch....holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I have learned that I still have a lot to learn. My sincerest hope that each of you enjoy this wonderful time of the year, and that you and those you hold dear, have the health and happiness that you so richly deserve. Merry Christmas!

Steve Gilmore

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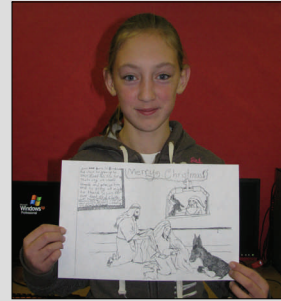
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District News



Across the district all schools celebrated Veterans Day through a number of assemblies and special events. At Charles Russell Elementary Mayor Tom Kelley, City Commissioner Marty Gute, and the President of the American Veterans, Mike Wurts spoke to the students about the importance of honoring our Veterans

each year on this special day. Students were reminded of the 10,000 MIA's and POW's that are still missing.



Congratulations to Teresa Hicks, a sixth grade student at Hager Elementary in Mrs. Vance's class, for creating a wonderful Christmas card in the AK Steel Contest. Teresa's card can be seen on display in Central Park.

Winter Weather.... School Closings and Delays

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent

My personal philosophy as an educator, I feel, mirrors that of our Board of Education. The safety and welfare of our students and staff must be our primary concern. In order to provide an appropriate, effective classroom instructional environment all peripheral aspects of our daily operations must be addressed. Clean, orderly classrooms comfortable throughout the changing seasons and weather conditions are provided throughout our district. However, the onslaught of winter weather conditions in the Ohio Valley does not always provide for an abundance of planning and organization in getting students to and from school.

We transport approximately 1000 students on a daily basis out of the 3100 total student population. In determining whether we will delay or possibly close for the day is not a quick decision, nor is it made without a reasonable degree of effort. In the total decision making process those students who are transported by parents, or those who drive to Blazer High School are also included in our early morning conferences. The safety of our buses and every vehicle headed to each school site is a consideration. When inclement weather is forecast, as imperfect as this system sometimes reflects, we sometimes are presented with information that does not definitively direct us to make a specific decision. Actually, most of the time we cannot make as quick and convenient decision as we would certainly hope to do. As a Superintendent who served this district many years as the Assistant Superintendent who had transportation and maintenance as a couple of my assignments I have a background in both trying to gather all the information needed and then making a decision always based upon the safety and welfare of every student and every staff member. Fortunately or unfortunately we don't usually get a blizzard in early evening that allows us to get all of our media announcements out for the 6:00 or the 11:00 news which in turn allows staff, parents, caregivers and all involved in our educational system to conveniently prepare for the next morning. It just doesn't work that way!

A typical preparation for addressing anticipated weather problems varies based upon when the bad conditions are predicted to appear. This winter has been much like many others, in that we implement a common practice of being out in the late night or early morning hours to drive the streets, stop and talk with Ashland Police Officers on night patrols, call the local state police office, and even have conversations with the Ashland Street Department staff who are commonly out scraping or salting. Our day usually begins about 3:00 a.m. when Joe Fraley, our Transportation Director calls and we decide what areas of town we will take. Jamie Carrico, Bus Supervisor, also assists us at this early hour and we drive for an hour or so and then convene to discuss what we have found. I usually come to my office by 5:00 a.m. to check the weather reports, talk with law enforcement and then make a determination if it is safe enough to have school. But I have to give great credit to our city street department for the wonderful job they do to make our streets as safe as possible as soon as possible each night when conditions warrant.

The Ashland Independent Schools, being in a city with a mere 16 square miles of roadways, is so much more manageable than our neighboring county districts that have roads that are sometimes quite difficult to traverse in good conditions. So, many times they are out for days at a time when we don't miss a beat in our daily instructional program. My deepest thanks to all of you—parents, staff, and especially our students for your continued support and patience with our process, which sometimes may seem imperfect, but it is with our deepest commitment to the safety and welfare of our students and staff within our ongoing efforts to provide the very best instructional program possible.

Ashland Preschool and Head Start is having a booming year with 173 children enrolled. Every day is an opportunity to make a difference in a child's life and to instill the curiosity for learning. Our families are learning the important role they play in their child's education through home visits, classroom activities, and program events. Visitors are always welcome to our busy center; pick up an application for a three or four year old child you know while there.

Mrs. Cook was honored by the Daily Independent with the Readers Choice Best Teacher Award! Kudos to Debbie Cook!



Dental education and awareness will be the focus for the Holiday program this year. All I want for Christmas is... (two front teeth). Several tooth fairies will be passing out dental samplers at the program while listening to "The Tooth Fairy: The Untold Story" written and narrated by Mrs. Dee.

Local dentists and The Oral Health Coalition have contributed to the program and our gratitude to Dr. Smith, Dr. Shelton, Dr. Spradlin, and the Boyd County Health department for their partnership and contribution to make this program a success.

On November 16th @ 6:30 PM, Ashland Head Start continued "Family Game Night". We invited families to enjoy an evening of free fun together. As usual it became an evening of fun, food and laughter. Each family chose a game and then the fun began. We ended the evening activities with snacks and a take home gift of a new game of their choice.



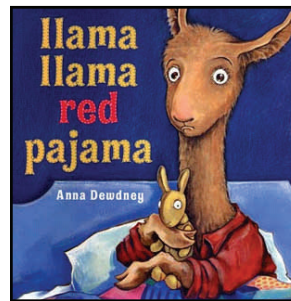
With every event that we provide an opportunity for learning occurs. We discussed the fact that children's play is their work. They learn best through discovery. In their early years, they explore using all their senses: touching, smelling, tasting,

looking and listening. They notice how things are related to each other. And most of all they pretend. As children play, they learn. Play is the very foundation for academic learning. Play is their work, their time for exploring, their opportunity to develop small muscle skills. So parents don't worry if your child's experience in preschool looks too easy. Play is their work--and it is some of the most important work they will ever do.

Ms. Cook's class has been celebrating families during the holiday season. They have been sending activities home for children to work with their families and return to class for display.



In Mrs. Whitehead's class each child is making a Santa Grinch. We have read the Dr. Seuss's book "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". Our theme to go along with the story is "What can you give someone to make them happy?". The children are learning how important it is to give back to others rather than receiving. Our class is also going on a field trip to Scope Towers for Christmas Caroling, singing songs about the holiday. Merry Christmas.



Mrs. Dee's Class is exploring literacy and drama with their favorite books. They will be presenting a drama production of "Llama Llama Red Pajama" by Anna Dewdney for the Holiday program on December 16th. The children have made a quilt and other props for the production.

In the spirit of the Holiday season Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Whitt's classes have been making lots of Christmas crafts such as ornaments and wreathes. We have also been writing letters to Santa and practicing



our songs for the upcoming Christmas play. We have invited families in to participate and share their family traditions with us. We are very excited to spend our Holiday Season with our families!!



In Mrs. Rutman's class we are preparing for the holidays. We are learning about our family traditions as well as discussing how we can show kindness to friends. We have been busy baking and making holiday crafts. We are looking forward to spreading kindness to others this holiday season!



Crabbe Elementary School

This past **Veteran's Day**, Mrs. Holderness led the 4th, 5th and 6th grade students of Crabbe Elementary in a ceremony honoring our active and retired military personnel. Students performed a play about the creation of the 'Star Spangled Banner' and sang several patriotic songs in honor of our veterans. Guest speakers included Mrs. Hemphill and Mrs. Barada's son, Jeremy. In attendance were Crabbe students, parents, staff and members of the community. Kudos to Mrs. Holderness and her students for the awesome presentation!



The Crabbe **STLP** "Tiger Techies" had a great showing at the Regional Fall Showcase event in Morehead, KY on November 30th. Due to their hard work and excellent presentation in Morehead, the Techies will now compete in the State Finals on May 13th! As Principal Greene said, "It's been a lot of hard work, but these students made it to the top of the 'mound'." Members of Crabbe STLP are Keandre Jordan, Brooklyn Moore, Taylor Ross, Spencer Wills, Nikki Doss, Julia Lyons, Payton Scott, Savannah Thomas, Mallory Martin, Hannah Hickman, Kata Crizer, Hunter Maynard, Santanna Segraves, Stephen Del Rosario, Skylar Compston and Sierra Stanley. The coach is Mr. Foudray.



Ms. Bare's 1st grade class performed a play entitled "The Ugly Turkey," an adaptation of "The Ugly Duckling" with a message of giving thanks for good friends and for who you are on the inside. Students made the stage and finger puppets of various materials. The puppets' beaks moved by using a string through a straw the students made as well. Ms. Bare's boys and girls worked hard using the literary, performance, and technical elements of drama and worked hard practicing voice to convey the message from their particular character to the audience. The students were nervous to perform in front of an audience but did exceptionally well after only two rehearsals with the microphone and on stage. Kudos to Ms. Bare's students!

Crabbe **BETA Club** members are asking parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to begin saving Box Tops for Education off of General Mills Products. The school will receive 10 cents from the company for each "Box Top" Logo collected. BETA Club

members will help sort, count, and bag the tops. Twice a year PTO will redeem the collection and use the money toward the purchase of new curtains for the stage!

First graders celebrated Thanksgiving by reenacting the first Thanksgiving dinner between the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Some dressed in Native American head bands with feathers and others dressed as Pilgrims and wore square white collars, hats, and bonnets. Students contributed to the meal by bringing items to make a tasty stew. The stew was made in the classroom by the students. The children learned about the history of Thanksgiving while enjoying a delicious meal!



Recently, Mr. Walter took over production responsibilities for the Crabbe **morning announcements** telecast along with his and Mr. Fleming's 6th grade students, and everyone agrees that the new setup is a resounding success! Utilizing cutting edge computer technology and the best in special effects and video editing software, Crabbe's new "Tiger Times" morning newscast has skyrocketed to the top of the ratings amongst news programming viewed in Crabbe Elementary classrooms. Take that *Fox News*!

While most of us have been enjoying the warm fall weather, the Crabbe **Governor's Cup** and **Future Problem Solving** academic teams of young 'Tigers' have been putting in the long hours of arduous mental work for weeks in preparation of the scholastic challenges that lie ahead. Geography, history, math, current events, contemporary social and political issues – *BZZZZT* – no problem! These analytical animals are ready to buzz in and devour the competition. Governor's Cup members include Spencer Wills, Payton Scott, Cadence Stephens, Jaykob Lafeber, Kiara Chapman, Xavier Stambaugh, Jenah Martin, and Nate Rickman. The coaches are Mrs. Hemphill, Mrs. Compher, and Mrs. Scott. Future Problem Solving team members are Cadence Stephens, Payton Scott, Spencer Wills, Nate Rickman and Xavier Stambaugh, and the coaches are Jeff Kennard and Clay Wills

The **UK Opera Theatre** visited Crabbe Elementary in November to do a comic opera called "Get Stuffed". It was about the importance of making healthy food choices. Zack was hungry and he usually ate hamburgers and French fries. He learned that healthy meats, fruits, and vegetables make him feel smarter, stronger, leaner, cleaner, and healthier. He decided that getting stuffed with healthy foods is better than stuffing himself with unhealthy foods. Students learned about the opera, costumes, and props.



Hager Elementary School

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On Thursday, September 20, 2010, our Junior Beta students spent the day at Hillcrest-Bruce Mission. During our time at the mission, our students worked with the pre-school students, helped organize the food pantry and clothing closet, made treats for the mission's elderly clients, and had a great time helping others in our community.



Student Council made their annual visit to Kings Daughter's Hospitality House on Thursday, November 18th. They baked cookies for the residents!

The Hager STLP Production Committee is happy to report that they have earned a trip to the state competition in May! This year Hager Elementary's STLP has chosen to focus on promoting family fitness. Much time and effort was spent creating surveys, flyers, public service announcements and brochures, collecting and analyzing data, and planning events. The production team received a very high score at their Regional Showcase and would like to thank their peers and fellow STLP members for all of their support!

Hager would like to recognize the following students who have recently participated in local theater productions:

- * Tori Barber, *Annie*, VMS
- * Molly Baldock, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *The Needles Eye*, PAC
- * Emily Fields, *The Nutcracker Ballet*, PAC
- * Wesley Gibbs, *A Christmas Carol*, ACTC
- * Madison Jervis, *Annie*, VMS
- * Isabella Johnston, *Annie*, VMS
- * Jordi Pullem, *The Nutcracker Ballet*, PAC
- * Gabby Reyes, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, PAC

Mrs. Coleman's and Mrs. Plummer's kindergartners enjoyed a festive fall as they used math skills to learn about apples and pumpkins. Students measured and weighed fruit, made apple print patterns, graphed their favorite pumpkin treat and counted pumpkin seeds. All the kindergarten students enjoy a special learning time each Wednesday morning where they break into mixed groups to work on language arts activities. Some of the activities include "Alphabet Basketball", "Letter Switch", and "Clap and Spell."

First grade at Hager Elementary enjoyed a trip to the Paramount to watch "Polar Express." They continue activities throughout the week ending with pajama day on Friday.

Many students are enjoying participating in the Accelerated Reader program. They are reading daily and taking AR tests. The first graders have really blossomed in reading. Way to go First Grade!!!!



After reading the story, *A Trip to the Firehouse*, Mr. Dave Redman, firefighter, visited second grade classes and spoke about fire safety rules. He also brought his fire gear and explained the purpose of each piece. Each student received a junior firefighter's helmet.

The Third grade classes at Hager created projects about their local community after studying about different kinds of communities in social studies. They chose a topic about their community and researched it using several different sources. The projects included interviews, dioramas, models, posters, and scrapbooks. The projects were outstanding, and we all learned facts we didn't know about our community.

Hager Fourth grade students participated in the Tobacco Free Academy sponsored by the Boyd Co. Health Dept. Students learned about the dangers of tobacco products. Fourth graders are also learning about healthy eating habits through the Eat Five and Thrive Program presented by Pennyrile Allied Community Services.

On November 11, 2010, Miss Holbrook and Mrs. Keener's 5th grade classes took part in a Skype session with a member of the United States Navy who is stationed in Virginia Beach, VA. Petty Officer 1st class Nicholas Wall spoke to the 5th grade classes about life on the U.S.S. George H.W. Bush and his previous duties on the U.S.S. Enterprise. He explained to the students what it means to be a Veteran, what it is like to be a part of a maiden crew, and the kids took part in a great discussion about many important topics. The students were enthralled with Mr. Wall's stories, especially the story about his duties on September 11, 2001.

As a part of our study on national symbols, each student in Mrs. Vance's and Mrs. Jackson's homerooms created a class flag using colors and symbols which have meaning to them. After presenting individual class flags, the students will then vote on their final choice, this choice will be made into a larger class flag to be hung in the classrooms for all to see.



Oakview Elementary School



STLP

Oakview's 3 STLP showcases will be attending the State Competition in Lexington in May. These include:

- Tailgate with the Tomcat: Landry Paluch, Emily Hollingsworth, Kade Dye, and Mykayla Akers
- Oakview Printing Services: Connor Hutchinson, Madeline Tipton, Spencer Lett, Chase Villers
- Straight From the Horse's Mouth (Equestrian Games)-Reece Ryan, Ben Fazenbaker, Kaitlyn Hall, Anne Burchett

Typing

Caroline Geyer a 6th grade student has finished all 25 lessons in Type to Learn 3. She can type 55 WPM. Great Job!

Art

Students in art class have been practicing their drawing skills, learning about Native Americans, Vincent van Gogh, painting and so much more. Mrs. Foudray is proud to announce that the 6th grade Art Club received a 1st place ribbon and a "Most Creative" ribbon at the Festival of Trees. Way to go! Also, in Art Club, students have been writing and drawing their own comic strips. Move over Snoopy and Garfield, you may have some competition.



Nutcracker

Bailey Grubb recently performed with the Ashland Youth Ballet at the Paramount Art Center in the Nutcracker. She will also get to perform with the Moscow Ballet when they present The Great Russian Nutcracker at the Paramount Art Center on December 20th.

Oakview Sing-a-Long

The students at Oakview are getting ready for the annual Christmas Sing-a-Long which will be on Friday, December 17th. Students in grades K-6th, along with all members of the staff, will be singing Christmas songs together.

Science

Mrs. Justice fifth grade classes at Oakview have been studying animal adaptations. During this study, the students participated in an experiment called "The Best Beak". Students worked in groups to determine the best type of beak for each kind of food: worms (macaroni), grubs (raisins), snails (marbles, and water bugs (Styrofoam pellets). This was an interesting way for the students to learn the importance of adaptations.

Twelfth Annual Animal Shelter Christmas Collections

Students at Oakview Elementary School once again took on their annual holiday service project of collecting for the local animal shelter for the twelfth year in a row. Students collected a variety of items (new and previously loved!) for all of the animals at the shelter. Collections included virtually anything that the animals or shelter could possibly use. Once again, the public also showed their holiday spirit and became involved in this very worthwhile project by bringing donations to the school! The children hoped to brighten the holiday season for the animals as well as remind everyone that there are many wonderful little (and big!) animals at the shelter just waiting to share their love with a family! Have you considered visiting the shelter and adding a new member to your family?



The Polar Express

Once again, The Polar Express made its annual stop at Oakview Elementary with a very special reader. For the fifth year in a row, former Oakview alumni Brandon Webb, pitcher for Arizona Diamondbacks and winner of the 2006 Cy Young Award, returned home to Oakview to share this wonderful tradition with Oakview students. The primary students and their guest, gathered in the darkened gym, lit only with a solitary lamp nestled amid flowing red poinsettias. Nearby sat an inviting rocker-ready for the guest of honor to proudly read the much loved story, The Polar Express. The children were wearing their pajamas, robes and slippers, for this was the best and perhaps only way to hear the most wonderful story of all. After the reading, the children found hot chocolate waiting for them in their classrooms, along with their own special bell so that so that they might always hear that one pure "jingle" of Christmas.

Poage Elementary School

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Students in Mrs. Anderson's **6th grade** class created Zulu Tribal Wall Hangings following a unit about Africa and a Literature Study of The White Giraffe by Lauren St. John.



The **4th grade** students at Poage have been learning about the properties of rocks and minerals. They tested the color, texture, luster, and hardness of various rocks and used the information to determine the type of the rock. They also brought in a "pet rock" and tested its properties and checked to see if their rock floated, and if it bubbled when vinegar was added.

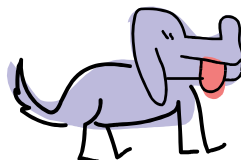


Poage's **kindergarten** students would like to thank their fifth and sixth grade Criss-Cross partners for being such amazing buddies. We have done so many things together from crafts to reading and now, even some of the kindergarten students are beginning to read to them. Recently, we visited the Paramount together for a viewing of the Polar Express. It was such a special time for all of the students. We look forward to spending more time with each other this year.



Sixth graders at Poage were drafted for war.....to help protect the body from invading bacteria! Your body has a built-in military and a cut triggers a full attack. Health students made scabs and learned how "nature's band aid" is made.

Mrs. Cooper's **1st grade** class is collecting items for the 14th annual Christmas Animal Collection. We are donating the items to Ashland Animal Rescue Fund (AARF). This organization rescues dogs and cats and places them in foster homes until they can find forever homes for them. They also pay for all bills if the animals are in need of medical care before being adopted. Please send any of the following items to Poage by Dec. 17th: Dog and cat food, pet beds, pet shampoo and brushes, pet treats and chew toys, clean towels, sheets, and blankets, leashes and collars, or pet taxis.



When you are trying to find that perfect last minute gift this year, remember to check with AARF or the local animal shelter for your child's new best friend!

Mrs. Cooper's **1st grade** class began the month by learning about economics with the help of The Gingerbread Man. We made ornaments for our tree and then listed the different materials we used under the type of resource it was: natural, capital, or human. Then we began learning about all of the different Christmas celebrations around the world. We tasted Latkes as we learned about the Menorah while learning about Hanukkah. St. Nicholas dropped by and filled our shoes with treats and toys when we left them in the hallway to show us how children in Holland celebrate Christmas. We were excited to also learn about the 7 days of Kwanza and the traditional gingerbread houses used in German Christmas celebrations.



This year, the hallway at Poage has been lit up with its first ever Giving Tree. The tree is decorated with Christmas wish lists from Poage students along with their siblings. Six families at Poage will have a very Merry Christmas thanks to the parents and teachers at Poage. This month also kicked off a new project Poage is starting called "Poage Gives Back." Students will learn the importance of giving back to their community through donations to local charitable agencies. Through December and January we will be collecting blankets and children's pajamas for Ashland's Dressing Room to distribute to families in need.

We have just finished our science unit about plant lifecycles in Mrs. Moresea's **third grade** classroom. To help enhance our learning we conducted a seed experiment to see what a plant needed in order to grow. We placed three pea seeds in each Ziploc baggie, one with a wet paper towel and one with a dry paper towel, and then sat them in the windowsill. Each day we made observations to see which baggie with the seeds would start to sprout. We came to the conclusion that water is the most important factor for a seed to grow. We also added musical learning to our lessons when learning about the plant lifecycles. The class was split into groups and each had to create a song that told about the three different types of plant lifecycles we were learning about: flowering plants, conifers, and ferns. The challenge was to create a song that could be sung to the given tune: Adam's family, Happy Birthday, or Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, while at the same time including all the important parts of each plant's lifecycle. The students really enjoyed this.



P.E. students learn hand and eye coordination in class. They earn cups to build buildings by running laps, doing push-ups and jumping rope. This also teaches teamwork because they have to work together to build the structures with cups. It instills creativity and the respect for other people's property. They learn to respect others' structures and are rewarded for unselfish behavior by earning extra cups.

Charles Russell Elementary School

Boyd County Fair Winner—Preston Ledford took 1st place in the 4th grade division for his insect collection at the Boyd County Fair in August.

Local Dramatic Performers—Several CRS students participated in the ACTC Theatre's "A Christmas Carol" on Dec. 2-5: 5th grader-Chase Goodrich as Young Scrooge and Peter Cratchit; 4th grader-Jaden Stevens as Fan and Townspeople's child; 4th grader Raegan Stevens as Belinda Cratchit; 4th grader Betty Conley and 5th grader Julia Conley as Poverty's Children; and 3rd grader Ashleigh Taylor, 5th grader Aly Taylor, 6th grader Sami Taylor as Townspeople's children. Also in the play were: Kim Taylor-Ashleigh, Aly, & Sami Taylor, Jaden and Raegan Stevens' grandmother; Christine Conley-Betty and Julia Conley's mother; and Annie Francis, Chase Goodrich's mother. 5th grader Zach Stafford performed in the Paramount's production of the "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" playing the role of 'Ollie Herdman' on Dec. 16-18.

6th Grade Showcase—These CRS students placed in the 6th Grade Academic Showcase at Russell Middle School on December 4: Breck Oppenheimer-6th/Composition; Bryan Lucas-6th/Math; Casey Walter-6th/Language Arts; Amy Moore-6th/Arts & Humanities.

Academic Team Meet Winners—These CRS students placed in the meet held at CRS on December 12: Jaden Stevens, Makenzie Lucas, Abby Crites-4th, Julia Conley, Ema-Leigh Forbes-5th/Arts & Humanities; Maddy Greene-1st, Olivia Allen-2nd, Zach Greene-3rd/Social Studies; Zach Stafford-3rd, Braedon Ward-5th/Math; Robbie Francis-3rd, Brianna Lambert-4th, Blaine Collins, Ema- Leigh Forbes-5th/Science; Zach Stafford-1st, Kaitlyn Lee, Chase Goodrich-5th/Language Arts; Quick Recall 1-tie & 1-win.

UNICEF Collection—These students helped 3rd grade Teacher Cheri Rowlett raise \$100 for UNICEF: Riley Dixon, Grace Sluss, Miguel Talamantez, Raven Rodas, Gabby Talamantez, Brianna Davis, Wyatt Bowers, Dakotah Forth, Carson Johnson, and Instructional Assistant, Mrs. Sharla Johnson.

Charles Russell CHAMPS is a new program at our school that teaches kids to be well behaved. This program is going to change this school in a good way. Some of the aspects include: noise levels, hallway expectations, cafeteria expectations, and classroom expectations. When you choose not to be a CHAMP, a process sheet is given to you to complete. This program is going to make our school safer, better, and fun. —Abby Crites & Alannah Molenda

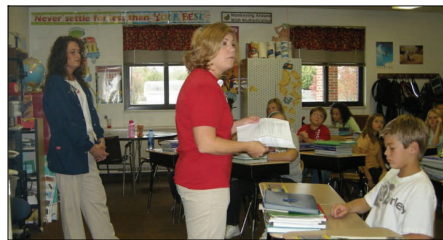


Kentucky Themes—Teachers at CRS decorated outside their classrooms with Kentucky Themes. The themes were: Famous Kentuckians, Kentucky Trivia, World Equestrian Games, Kentucky Symbols, Kentucky Caves, Derby

Festival Hot Air Balloon Race, Kentucky Derby, Kentucky State Bird, and Kentucky State Parks. The teachers decorated using pictures, construction paper, maps, fake plastic animals, and bulletin board paper. The students enjoyed learning about Kentucky. —Makenzie Lucas

Recycling Programs (Green School) - Please save Campbell's UPCs, General Mills/Pillsbury box tops, printer cartridges, old cell phones, digital cameras/camcorders, laptops, iPods, MP3s, GPSs, radar detectors, e-readers, handheld games, old/broken jewelry, pop cans and tabs, and Capri Sun packs. Use GoodSearch.com as your search engine; be sure to type in Charles Russell Elementary on the charity line and click verify. Your participation with these programs benefits the school by earning funds or free products to support various school activities while helping with the environment at the same time.

McTeachers' Night—October 12th was Charles Russell McTeachers' Night at the Ashland McDonalds. All students who came to McDonald's and ate dinner had their name put in for a drawing. Zach Francis in 3rd grade won the drawing, winning a ride in the Ronald McDonald car at the Ashland Christmas parade. The grand prize winner of the poster contest was Bethany Ledford in first grade. Other grade level winners were: 2nd grade-Melanie Grimm, 3rd grade-Riley Dixon, 4th grade-Sarah Brison, and 6th grade-Breck Oppenheimer and Sarah Ratliff. The event raised \$4,175 for our school. This night was a fun, joyful night for everyone. —Abby Crites



Keep Your Sneeze to Yourself—Your nose is gross. Teresa Salyers and Missie Grayson from KDMC proved that in all the classes on October 19, 2010. Using glow

germs they showed us how fast germs can spread by sneezing or shaking hands. We then used a special light to see all the germs that were spread. Mrs. Grayson's experiment showed us the importance of keeping your hands clean. As winter approaches washing your hands is very important. —Zach Greene

European Festival - Friday, October 22nd, the 6th grade classes held a European Country Festival. Each group of five students got to choose which country their team wanted to do. They had to find the country's flag, important facts about the country, any country festivals, and a food that they eat in that country. The teams then created a display to show what they found. Then they were presented in the library so all 4th/5th/6th students and teachers could look, hear and even taste what they found. Some teams played music from their country and dressed in costume. Everybody had a great time! —Amy Moore



Verity Middle School

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Verity MS welcomes the arrival of two future Patriots, Keegan Hollar and Eden Slone. Congratulations to the proud parents Carrie Hollar, 8th grade English teacher, and Chris Slone, AYCS.

STLP students Geoffrey Bennett, Marshall Heath, Morgan Scherer, and Anna-Marie O'Dell were selected to compete at the STLP state championships in May, 2011. Their showcase, "Apps For The I-Phone", dealt with creating Applications for the I-Phone and how to list the applications on the Apple App Store. They are currently working on creating an App that will make the AISD calendar available on the I-Phone. Ashley Carpenter and Elshadai Smith-Mensah were selected to make an instructional presentation at the STLP State Championships. They will teach the process involved in creating an App for the I-Phone.

Verity Band members earned high honors at the Morehead State University Honor Band Clinic: Cassie Kinner, Amber Kent, Shannon Conley—Flute, Samantha Bowen, Brooke Cochran, Kaitlin Burchett—Clarinet, Josh Lumpkins—Alto Sax, Kamryn Gose, Kyle Mason, Josiah Fairchild—trumpet, Zach Hall—Horn, Laura Barker—Baritone, Conor Justice—Tuba, Brandon Norrod—Percussion.

KMEA All-District Band: Cassie Kinner, Amber Kent, Shannon Conley, Brooke Cochran, Josh Lumpkins, Kamaryn Gose, Zach Hall, and Conor Justice.

The Daily Independent reported that Verity's Chain Links Christmas Tree was not only a 1st place entry at the Paramount's Festival of Trees but was also a crowd favorite.

Congratulations to the 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team. They were OVC Champions, OVC Tournament Champions, 8th Grade State Tournament Final Four, Pride of the Mountains Tournament Champions, and KY State Invitational Championship, 2nd place.

The 8th Grade Girls Basketball Team OVC All Conference Team: Haley-Sue Foutch, Shelby Gransberry, Megan Hensley, and Alexis Robinson.

The 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team came in 2nd place in the season ending OVC Tournament.

The 7th Grade Football Team was NEKC Regular season Champions and NEKC Tournament Champions.

The 8th Grade Football Team was NEKC Tournament Champs.

Cross Country - Austin Craft was Middle School All State. Outstanding job Austin!

The Boys Soccer Team finished a very successful season by defeating Russell 4-2. The boys won the season series 2-1.

The winners of Verity's Veterans Day essay contest were as follows: 1st Kaitlenn Hardesty, 2nd Erica Broughton, and 3rd Brooke Arnett.

As part of The Big Read Grant entitled "The Works of Edgar Allan Poe", Ohio University - Southern Campus sponsored a "Write Like Poe" contest! Verity had the following winners: Alyssa Himes 1st, Emily Ford 2nd, Tierra Carlisle, 3rd, and Peter Jenkins Honorable Mention. The winners read their entries at a Poe read aloud event at The Boyd County Public Library.

287 Verity students have been recognized for their Attitude, Attendance, and Academics. Each of their pictures are proudly displayed in the entrance hall as they are part of the AAA Club.

Each week Verity is recognizing two students and a staff member as "Patriot of the Week". The honor includes special lunches, special parking spaces, and even the name on the marquee.

Diane Carper received an Ashland Dupont Science Grant so that her students can study alternative energy sources. Each student will build a solar vehicle and perform a variety of tests on the vehicle.

Verity's Strings program, under the guidance of Dan Boyer, has been awarded Gold Status by the Kentucky Music Educators Association.



Ms. Toplis and Verity's dance team. (Pictured Left)

The Verity Dance Team perform half time shows at the football and basketball games. The girls perform hip-hop routines and holiday themed routines. This year they dance to the B.O.B. Magic Track Song and Jingle Bell Rock.

Verity welcomes Mrs. Susie Gullett. She is leading the new Life Skills/Food Class at Verity. The foods class has already catered several functions this year. Way to go Mrs. Gullett.



Verity's School Secretaries, Robin Barber and LeeAnn Taylor, show off their school spirit during Red Ribbon Week. Their attitude says, "Just Say No To Drugs!"

Paul Blazer High School

Paul Blazer High School STLP outdid themselves in preparing a showcase project for the STLP Regional Competition. Their project was on the use of technology in the classroom and their scores on the project will allow them to move on to the state competition in Lexington. Anna Lockhart is representing Blazer as a cyber reporter and Jamie Leistner is leading the pack as a senior engineer this year. Jamie worked on a major project with Microsoft this last summer at the Equestrian Games by assisting in the Microsoft Cyber Cafe. As an STLP engineer she helped with technical issues relating to the computer network and the internet.

On Nov. 9th Mrs. LeMaster's A.P. and Spanish 3 classes took a trip to Charleston, WV to see a flamenco show. Several students got to dance on stage with the professionals. This was a special treat for this year's Spanish Dance Team which is going to dance the flamenco at the Morehead State University's Foreign Language Competition. Members of this year's dance team include: Lauren Canty, Morgan Canty, Noell Conley, Daphne Garner, Kelly Heishman, Jane Jenkins, Aimee Johnson, Amanda Nelson, Kayla Wells, and Ali Rice.

Mr. Stadelmeyer's health classes recently did their part to stomp out smoking and smokeless tobacco at Blazer by designing anti-tobacco posters and placing them throughout building 3 at Blazer.

For a Christmas project, the Blazer National Honor Society adopted a very needy adult woman in our community. NHS members are donating socks, slippers, toiletries, non-perishable food items, gloves, clothing, hats, and other items to make Christmas and the rest of the year brighter for this community member.

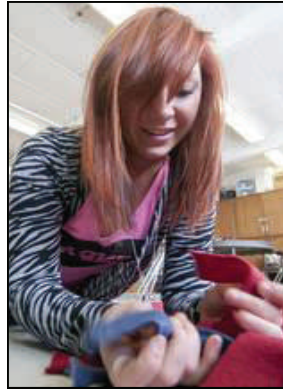
Mrs. Hieneman's Biology II classes and Mrs. Bias' AP Biology classes received the DuPont Science and Technology Grant to fund our Gel Electrophoresis Project that will begin in February. Gel Electrophoresis allows students to become familiar with DNA analysis techniques. Students will also experience the fields of genetics and molecular biology. This project will help transform these students into scientists. The students from the two courses will collaborate to make this research based project in which they will present the information to various audiences



Painting by Taran Knipp in Mrs. Chapman's Art Class

The Blazer Art Club held its second annual ornament fundraiser. Students sold ornaments to friends and family and the art club held after-school workshops to create them. Ornaments were made to order and personalized with names, sports teams, or other personal interests. Keep Blazer art club in mind next year for your holiday ornaments.

Ashland Independent's first archery team, The Blazing Arrows, has officially began practices on Mondays and Wednesdays at the KYOVA Mall in Cannonsburg. Coaches: Jill Smith, Darris Duncan and John Shelton. We have about 35 archers.



FCCLA was featured on the front page of the Daily Independent for their community service project - Blankets for Wounded Soldiers. The class made blankets that will be sent to service members recovering from war injuries. The full article can be found on the Daily Independent Website.

The School String Orchestra program was recognized last year by the Kentucky Music Educators' Association and achieved "Gold Level" status in the "Program of Excellence."

The Youth Services Center would like to thank all the students, staff and community for their generous giving during our Cash and Coins for Christmas drive.



A self portrait drawn by Hannah Cox in Mrs. Chapman's Art Class.

The Paul G. Blazer High School chapter of the National Beta Club will be accepting applications for membership from January 18 through February 11. The National Beta Club's mission is to promote the ideals of character, service and leadership among students, to reward meritorious achievement and to encourage and assist students in continuing their education after high school. Any sophomore or junior who has a 3.2 or higher cumulative GPA is eligible for membership. See Mrs. Hackney in room 304 to pick up an application. Applications must be submitted by February 11.

District News

Focus on Attendance

Dr. Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel

Good attendance is important. It always has been and it always will be. Student achievement is directly related to student attendance. Let's face it, a student can't learn if they aren't in school. Good attendance and punctuality are life-long habits that benefit us throughout our entire lives. After our students leave the public schools and either continue with their education or enter the work force, attendance and punctuality are not only good habits but also are essential for success. That's why it is important to establish those life skills as early as possible.

The first half of this school year has been an especially good year in terms of attendance. Our district-wide attendance at the end of the third month of school was 95.3%. That's the highest attendance for the Ashland Schools in at least the last ten years. Parents, please continue to encourage and promote good attendance. Besides the obvious advantage of your child reaping the benefit of an education, you are also instilling in your child a life-long learning habit that will benefit them throughout adulthood. Thanks for all you do.

STLP is State-bound

Rebekah Williams, Technology Integration Specialist

On Tuesday, November 30th, 120 elementary, middle and high school students traveled to Morehead State University to compete in the Regional STLP Fall Showcase. Ashland was well represented with each of our seven schools participating in the event. We are excited to announce that each project that was presented at the regional competition qualified for the State STLP Competition that will be held in May at Rupp Arena.

Charles Russell

Tall Tale Theatre— Blaine Collins, Chase Goodrich, Makenzie Lucas, and Zach Stafford, Bentley Meade, Abby Crites, Hattie Killin, Tommy McGlone, Alannah Molenda, Sarah Ratliff, Aaron Simpson, and Leah Smith-Mensah.

To listen to Charles Russell's tall tales visit:

http://www.ashland.kyschools.us/content_page2.aspx?schoolid=3&cid=426



Crabbe

Buried History – Keandre Jordan, Brooklyn Moore, Taylor Ross, Spencer Wills, Nikki Doss, Julia Lyons, Payton Scott, Savannah Thomas, Mallory Martin, Hannah Hickman, Kata Crizer, Hunter Maynard, Santanna Sagraves, Stephen Del Rosario, Skylar Compston and Sierra Stanley



Hager

21st Century Family Fitness – Ashby Foutch, Savannah Hammond, Reilly Barker, Molly Baldock, Katelyn Ferguson, Ty Duckwyler, and Sydni Pierce

Oakview

Tailgate with a Tomcat – Landy Paluch, Emily Hollingsworth, Kade Dyle, and Mykayla Akers

Oakview Printing Services – Connor Hutchinson, Madeline Tipton, Spencer Lett, and Chase Villers

Straight from the Horse's Mouth – Reece Ryan, Ben Fazenbaker, Kaitlyn Hall, and Anne Burchett



Poage

Trout is A"lure"ing – Derrek Baer, Jacob Duncil, Adrianna Johnson, and Chloe Whitlock

Poage Paparazzi – Connor Crace, Daniel Heaberlin, Dylan Boyle, and Luke Hinderliter

Getting' Green with Greenschool – Alexis Smyser, Kailee Mills, Caleb Keelin, Olivia Short, and Zach Hinderliter

Verity

Apps for I-Phones – Marshall Heath, Geoffrey Bennett, Anna-Marie O'Dell, and Morgan Scherer

Creating Apps for I-Phones – Elshadai Smith-Mensah and Ashley Carpenter, Presenters



Blazer

Technology Reality Check: No Teacher Left Behind! - Kim Bond, Harley Davis, Ben Dean, Chelsea Gober, Jamie Leistner, Anna Lockhart, and Emily Salyers. Jamie Leistner, Engineer, Anna Lockhart, Cyber Reporter

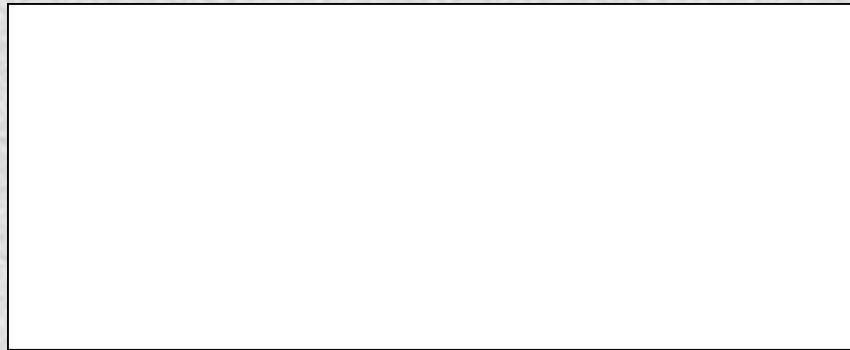


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1420 Central Avenue
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School Principals

Blazer High School, Derek Runyon
Verity Middle School, David Greene
Crabbe Elementary School, Brad Greene
Hager Elementary School, Linda Calhoun
Oakview Elementary School, Nancy McHenry
Poage Elementary School, Bob Blankenship
Charles Russell Elementary School, Steve Salyers
Head Start Director, Jacqui Thornburg

Central Office Personnel

Steve Gilmore, Superintendent
Joe Fraley, Director of Transportation/Maintenance
Lisa Henson, Director of Student Services
Patsy Lindsey, Director of Pupil Personnel
Richard Oppenheimer, Director of Student Achievement
Tim Walters, Director of Finance
Cary Williams, Director of Instructional Technology
Theresa Watts, Health/Wellness

Board of Education

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Molly Webb, Vice-Chairperson
Carol Jackson
Patricia Hall



MS Paint Drawing created by Alannah Molenda in Mrs. Foster's 4th Grade class at Charles Russell Elementary.

The Ashland Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disability in employment or the provision of service, as set forth in the Title IX and VI and in Section 504.